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## Analysis of The Needs of Information about ISSN for Scientific Journal Managers in Indonesia

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## ANALYSIS OF THE NEEDS OF INFORMATION ABOUT ISSN FOR SCIENTIFIC JOURNAL MANAGERS IN INDONESIA

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### ABSTRACT

This study aims to find out what information is needed by scientific journal publishers. The method of this study was a questionnaire and interview to the participants of the ISSN workshop held by Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI). The answers of the question are processed and analyzed as the research data. The results of the study showed that the information which is needed by scientific journal managers are not only about the national accreditation but also the basic information needs regarding the use of ISSN, there are still many scientific journal publishers who published their works without any guidance or in accordance with the publishing standards such as naming, subtitling, writing the editions, article page writing, frequency of publication, publishing agencies, electronic journal sites and barcodes.

**Keywords:** Information Needs; Scientific journals; Journal Managers; Publisher; ISSN.

### INTRODUCTION

Management of periodical publication in the form of scientific journals can run well and smoothly if the information possessed by the manager of the issue is adequate. The information is the key for successful scientific journal management. The lack of information can inhibit the process of publishing a scientific journal. The need of information arise when someone realizes that their knowledge is not enough to overcome problems about a particular subject and to understand the information needs, they need to cooperate between information managers and information users ([Aprapti, 2017](#)). According to Hartono ([in Rahmawati, 2011: 8](#)) Information can be defined as the results of data processing in a form which is more meaningful to the recipient describing a real event that is used for decision making. In addition, the law number 14 of 2008 explained about disclosure of public information, Information is statements, statements ideas, and signs that contain values, meanings, and messages, both data, facts, and explanations that can be seen, heard and read that are presented in various packages and formats in accordance with developments in electronic and non-electronic information and communication technology.

The user of information is someone who needs information then seeks information through various print and non-print media and then utilizes the information. The need of

information are conditions where a person needs the information to solve the problems faced (Djatin in Nugroho, 2009: 26). One of the important information in managing scientific journals is government policy regarding the accreditation of scientific journals. Main (2009) explains that the accreditation of periodicals becomes an assessment tool for the quality of periodicals, such as journals, magazines, and scientific bulletins, both printed and recorded. The latest government policy stated in [Permenristekdikti No. 9 of 2018](#) concerning the accreditation of scientific journals, makes the managers of scientific journals competing to find each other as complete information as possible so that it can be applied in the journal management process and hopes to qualify as a national accredited scientific journal. In general, there is three main information needed by the managers of scientific journals in managing journals, namely information about ISSN, information on the accreditation of scientific journals and information on reputable international scientific journals.

ISSN is a number consisting of eight digits, including digit checks and preceded by the ISSN alphabetical prefix, which is provided for periodicals or serials published by the ISSN Network ([ISSN Manual, 2015: 14](#)). The institutions which provide public services related to ISSN and accreditation of scientific journals must be ready to provide complete information to the managers of scientific journals. Accreditation of scientific journals is under the authority of the Ministry of Research, Technology and Higher Education, while ISSN is under the Center for Scientific Documentation and Data (PDDI) of the Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI). The Center for Scientific Data and Documentation, formerly known as the Center for Scientific Documentation and Information (PDII), has the main task and function as a manager of scientific data and documentation specified in the LIPI environment and in general in Indonesia (national).

PDDI LIPI is the ISSN National Center for Indonesia which is obliged to provide public services in the form of ISSN services in Indonesia. ISSN services are provided to the public, especially the managers of both scientific and non-scientific publications. ISSN can be given for a periodical issue if all the required documents are fulfilled by the registrant. The required documents in the form of an official application letter from a legal entity, front cover page, editorial board composition page, table of contents, and proof of payment must be uploaded through the online ISSN system on the website page [Http: //issn.pdii.lipi. go.id/](http://issn.pdii.lipi.go.id/), another requirement for electronic media publications is the availability of journal sites that are already active and accessible to the public. To expedite the management of ISSN, consultancy services are available to place questions about problems encountered during registering ISSN, this is useful to get information and solutions from service officers to registrants who are still experiencing problems in managing ISSN ([Aulianto, 2019](#)).

The ISSN registration form contains metadata elements in the form of issue name, synopsis, manager, site, name, address, email, telephone, fax, publisher, publisher site, issue frequency, issue edition, edition media, science category, and dynamic key. Meanwhile, the ISSN filing requirements file is an official request from the manager/publisher, front cover

page, editorial board composition page, table of contents page, and ISSN payment proof, all in the form of soft files in pdf format. Obligations for managing periodicals after obtaining an ISSN include: including the ISSN in the upper right corner, beginning with the word ISSN (ISSN must be stated on the front cover page, title page, editorial board page, and table of contents); include barcodes (barcodes are placed in the lower right corner of the back cover for scientific publications, and placed in the lower-left corner of the front cover for non-scientific issues); sending two copies per issue number each time it is published either in electronic form; the manager/publisher must report to PDII-LIPI in writing and submit a new ISSN application if there is a change in the title of the issue; manager/publisher must report to PDDI-LIPI if there is a change other than the title, which is reported in writing so that PDDI-LIPI immediately changes the data in the ISSN database; and registering ISSN for publication with other media, for example electronic media ([Aulianto, 2015](#)).

The previous research on preparations for managing national and accredited journals was written by [Wahid Nashihuddin and Dwi Ridho Aulianto](#) in 2016 with an article entitled "Management of Scientific Periodicals following Accreditation Provisions: Efforts Towards Accredited and International Reputable Journals" stated that there were efforts that needed to be prepared by journal managers. In the framework of accredited and internationally reputable journals, namely 1) Establish the name of the publication; 2) Assign a team of editors and reviewers; 3) Pay attention to the provisions of the publication of scientific publications; 4) Arranging policy guidelines for publishing scientific journals; 5) Building an e-journal system; 6) Submission of issuance to PDII LIPI; 7) Publication of back issue texts and e-publishing journals; 8) Organizing call for papers in journal manuscripts; 9) Register for journal entries; 10) Perform indexing to reputable indexers; 11) Conduct self-evaluation and register journal accreditation; 12) Prepare the publication into an internationally reputable journal.

Indirectly, there are 12 efforts needed by scientific journal managers require relevant information and scientific journal managers must know and understand so that efforts to realize scientific and reputable journals can be achieved. The most fundamental process in achieving these efforts is to understand information about ISSN because a scientific journal must have an ISSN to develop and become accredited and reputable. PDDI LIPI is required to provide complete information to the public (periodical issue manager) in this case the scientific journal manager so that the registration process, usage, and obligations that must be carried out by periodical issue managers are known and understood so that all stages of the process can run smoothly. The information must be easily accessed and found so that ISSN users can easily utilize the required information. This paper aims to identify cases that are often done by scientific journal managers and what information is needed by scientific journal managers in managing ISSN scientific journals.

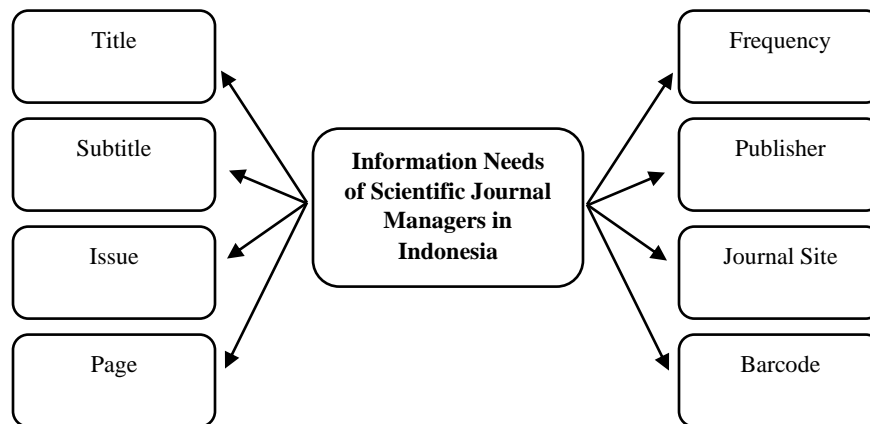
## METHODOLOGY

This research uses a qualitative method approach. The informants in this study were the managers of scientific journals who participated in the ISSN PDDI LIPI workshop 2016. There are several criteria for selecting informants in this study such as publishers who have printed or electronic scientific journals, have consulted about ISSN issues, have problems in registering ISSN, have unresolved issues about ISSN. Informants were obtained from online questionnaire data distributed before the workshop took place. Data is then collected, categorized, selected and analyzed so that it meets established criteria. Research data collection was carried out through questionnaires and interviews with informants. The validity of the results of the study was conducted by triangulation of the ISSN PDII LIPI service personnel.

## DATA ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSIONS

In summary, the scientific journal management information needs about national accreditation, at least information on the scientific journal accreditation requirements, the procedure for submission, the accreditation mechanism, the validity period of accreditation, as well as information on assessment indicators both in terms of substance and management. Eight indicators of scientific journal accreditation assessment, namely: 1) Naming of Scientific Journal; 2) Institutional Issuer; 3) Journal Editing and Management; 4) The substance of the article; 5) Writing Style; 6) Appearance; 7) Recklessness; and 8) Dissemination. In addition to the information on accreditation, there is a reduction in the assessment in the form of scientific journal disincentives, disincentives are applied when deviations from the mandatory provisions that should be fulfilled by scientific journals such as plagiarism. This is based on the accreditation guidelines for scientific journals (Dirjenrisbang Kemenristekdikti, 2018).

Figure 1. Information Needs of Scientific Journal Managers (ISSN) in Indonesia



Based on the results of interviews towards the informants, the following is a summary of the information needed by scientific journal managers in managing scientific ISSN journals in Indonesia, including:

**Naming a Scientific Journal**, the name of the publication or title of a scientific journal is the identity of the publication that is specific. A name or title of a scientific journal is more specific and permits scientific depth, so the higher the quality of the manuscript and its accreditation value (Nashihuddin and Aulianto, 2016). The name or title in a scientific journal is the identity as an identification that is owned by a scientific journal, this name/title will be given one ISSN (International Standard Serial Number) number in one media version, and will be given a new ISSN for another media version. Information on naming scientific journals is very much needed by the managers of scientific journals in Indonesia. If the identity of the name/title of the scientific journal changes or changes, it is necessary to adjust the metadata in the national ISSN database and ISSN International, this is done so that all changes are recorded. Changing the name of the publication requires that the manager of the scientific journal-register the new ISSN and adjust the edition which consists of the volume and number of issues. Changes to names besides being reported to the ISSN National Center must also be written on the description/history page in print and electronic media. The name change is usually done when the journal name reflects locality or will move from national to international journals.

Here are some things that are often done by scientific journal managers on the names or titles of scientific journals that are owned, but information about things that must be done is not yet known by scientific journal managers, among others: 1) Changing the names or main titles of scientific journals, using old issues without replacing the new issue, and continue the issue edition; 2) Change the name or main title of the scientific journal, have registered a new issue, and continue the edition; 3) Change the name or main title of the scientific journal, have registered a new issue, and start from the initial edition; 4) The name or titles of the scientific journal titles are the same as other publications, and each of them already has an issue; 5) The name or title of the scientific journal is given an additional foreign language translation that matches the original title; 6) The name or title of the scientific journal is given an additional translation of a foreign language that does not match the original title; 7) The name or title of the online scientific journal is different from the printed version; 8) Add an acronym for the name or title of a scientific journal that did not exist before; 9) Change the name or title of the scientific journal to an acronym; 10) Using characters, symbols, punctuation marks in the names or titles of scientific journals; 11) Change or delete characters, symbols, punctuation in the name or title of scientific journals. Problem-solving for example cases related to naming scientific journals needs to be known by the managers of scientific journals so that information about naming scientific journals is important and is needed by managers of scientific journals.

**Scientific Journal Subtitles**, subtitles are words or sentences that are written after the name or title of the scientific journal that is used as a complement and explanatory name or

title of the scientific journal. Some things that are often done by scientific journal managers related to the subtitles of a scientific journal include: 1) Changing the publication subtitles from A to B, and maintaining the name or main title of the scientific journal; 2) Reducing published subtitles from AB to A only or B only, and maintaining the main titles of scientific journals; 3) Add subtitles that were not previously present in the scientific journal titles; 4) Add subtitles in foreign languages that did not exist before; 5) Subtitles in online scientific journal media are different from the printed version.

The case of scientific journal managers in Indonesia changes titles or subtitles, frequency of periodicals, and information in other metadata elements without providing written information to the ISSN National Center very often. Whereas periodic change data that should be followed or not followed by changes to this new ISSN is not well monitored. Changes to the data are not only made in the ISSN database in Indonesia but must also be followed by changes in data in the database at the international ISSN in Paris ([Aulianto, 2015](#)). The solution to case examples related to scientific journal subtitles needs to be understood by scientific journal managers so that information about scientific journal subtitles becomes important and is needed by scientific journal managers.

**Writing Edition (Volume, Number, Month, and Year of Scientific Journals),** editions in scientific journals consist of volumes that indicate the year of publication, a number that indicates the frequency of publication, the month that indicates the month of publication, and the year that marks the year of publication. A scientific journal that is published twice a year in minimum is referred to the National Accreditation System. Many small numbers of publications are adjusted to the needs of each scientific journal. The following are cases that are often carried out by scientific journal managers, including 1). The writing of the edition is consistent but not according to the writing standard ie the volume continues each time it is published; 2) Writing a consistent edition but not according to the standard ie numbering continues each time it is published; 3) Writing a consistent edition but not according to the standard ie volume and number continues each time it is published; 4) Issuance of one volume consists of 2 calendar years; 5) Issuance of special editions in scientific journals; 6) Writing using roman numerals in the volume and number of scientific journals; 7) Writing the edition only by volume, number and year, without writing the month of publication; 8) Issuance of the article in press edition. Corrective action for examples of cases related to writing scientific journal editions needs to be known by scientific journal managers so that information about scientific journal editions becomes important and is needed by scientific journal managers.

**Writing Scientific Journal Article Pages,** articles in scientific journals have standard page writing using Arabic numbers (1,2,3, etc) and are written at the beginning of each volume starting on page 1 for the first article, then sort on the next page until the last page of the article. The pages are written in sequence from number 1 to the end of the article page in a volume of scientific journals and the article page for new volumes will start from number 1

again, as an explanation see table 1, examples of scientific journals published twice a year in 1 year.

Table 1. Writing a Scientific Journal Article Page

Volume	Issue	Month	Years	Page
1	1	Jun	2018	01 – 90
1	2	Dec	2018	91 – 182
2	1	Jun	2019	01 – 115
2	2	Dec	2019	116 – 207

Some cases related to the writing of page numbers carried out by the managers of scientific journals include: 1) Writing of pages always from page 1 on each issue number; and 2) The writing of the page continues from page 1 onwards each time it is published. Solutions to the case examples related to writing page numbers need to be known by the managers of scientific journals so that information about writing page numbers becomes important and is needed by the managers of scientific journals.

**Frequency of publication**, scientific journals have a frequency of publication in one year of publication, which indicates how many times it was published in one year. The frequency of scientific journals is the period for a scientific journal to be published within 1 year of publication. According to the national accreditation standards for scientific publications, at least 1 year of publication is 2 times or 6 months in 1 year. Each scientific journal has its policy to determine the number of journals published in one year. Based on portal.issn.org some frequency of ISSN periodicals, namely annual, biennial, bi-weekly, bi-weekly, continuously updated, daily, monthly, quarterly, semi-annual, semi-monthly, every two weeks, three times a month, three times a week, three times a year, triennial and weekly. Information needed by the management of scientific journals related to the frequency of scientific journals published includes: 1) Information on how minimal and maximum frequency of scientific journals is ISSN; 2) Information on the frequency of 1 year scientific journals published; 3) Information on changing frequency of scientific journals published from A to B; 4) Information on changing frequency of scientific journals published from A to B to C; 5) Information on the scientific journals number 1 and 2 combined.

**Issuing Institutions**, scientific journal accreditation guidelines state that issuing institutions in the form of professional organizations, tertiary institutions, research and development institutions, and/or institutions that are authorized to issue journals have legal status so that they can guarantee the sustainability of funds and legal protection. Publishers can handle more than one scientific journal that is not of the same type, but the realm of science they practice must be clear (Dirjenrisbang Kemenristekdikti, 2018). Information needed by the management of scientific journals related to scientific journal publishing institutions include: 1) Information about individuals who wish to register for ISSN; 2) Information on changes in editorial composition; 3) Information on changing the name of the



issuing institution; 4) Information on changing the address of the issuing institution; 5) Information institutions/institutions in collaboration with associations, organization, professional ties.

**Electronic Scientific Journal Sites**, sites or websites or portals are online media for displaying electronic versions of scientific journals. The form and contents of scientific journals on the site are the same as the manual version (if it has a printed version). The scientific journal application used should use an e-publishing system where the publishing process starts from the submission, editing, review process until the publishing process is done electronically. In Indonesia, the creation of a scientific journal site based on the guidelines for scientific journal accreditation is recommended based on the open journal system (OJS). The use of an open journal system can be used for multiple journals and single journals tailored to the needs of journal managers. Each electronic scientific journal-title has a unique URL address as identification so that users can use it. Some cases related to electronic scientific journal sites carried out by scientific journal managers include: 1) Open journal system is used in each scientific journal-title; 2) Electronic scientific journals using agency websites; 3) Electronic scientific journals using Blogspot; 4) Electronic scientific journals use websites instead of the open journal system; 5) Change the URL address of the scientific journal site; 6) Updating the scientific journal version. For examples of cases related to scientific journal sites, it is necessary to know the resolution that must be carried out by the managers of scientific journals, so that the information becomes important and is needed by the managers of scientific journals.

**Barcode** is a combination of thick and small lines that have meaning when read with a particular machine. Each line symbolizes some letters that have been arranged in such a way, which can be read using a device (barcode reader), the bar code is drawn in the form of bars and thick black and thin spaces arranged in a horizontal row (Daulay, 2005). The ISSN system in the old [issn.pdii.lipi.go.id](http://issn.pdii.lipi.go.id) provides facilities for each scientific journal manager to make barcode variations, which can then be downloaded and used in the process of publishing scientific journals. ISSN barcodes are given for 1 scientific journal-title and 1 publication media, ISSN continues to apply to the same issue as long as there is no change in title (including subtitles) and media, barcodes for ISSN can be static (fixed) and can be dynamic (alternating ), this is adjusted to the needs of scientific journal managers. Barcode variations for example for special editions of issues, price changes, markers of the year of publication, markers of the numbering of publications and so on. Information on barcodes required by managers of scientific journals includes 1) The meaning of the numbers on the barcode; 2) Layout of barcode print versions and electronic versions of scientific journals; 3) Barcode variations and how to replace them.

## CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the discussion above, it is known that the information needs of scientific journal managers are not only about the accreditation of scientific journals but also the basic information needs regarding the use of ISSN. In addition, information related to ISSN in managing scientific journals is also needed, there are still many scientific journal managers who do things that are not in accordance with publishing standards as mentioned in the case examples of each information starting from naming scientific journals, scientific journal subtitles, edition writing, article page writing, frequency of publication, publishing agencies, electronic journal sites, and barcodes. The availability of information is the key for scientific journal managers in managing ISSN scientific journals.

Further research needs to be done to find out solutions and follow-up that must be carried out by related parties, both from policymakers and scientific journal managers on the information needs basing on the identification of cases that have been described in the discussion.

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